

Saint John XXIII Parish Newsletter

April 12, 2016
Volume 2, Issue 6



Dear Parishioners,

A warm and heartfelt thank you to all those parishioners who helped to make our celebration of the Easter Triduum most beautiful.

In the coming weeks, during this Easter Season, I will be offering you a new message series each Sunday (if you are unable to attend Mass you can listen to the message on-line through our parish website: www.sj23tamaqua.org). This series will be about 'What's Next.' So many things have happened over the course of these past two years; we have seen a tremendous amount of change. Often, when we experience many changes we express, with exasperation: "What's Next?" As if to say, "please, no more!" On the other hand that 'What's Next' comment can hold a sense of excitement, much like a visit to an amusement park: "what's the next ride going to be like? I can't wait to find out!"

I am constantly bombarded with complaints! You know the difference between a complaint and a criticism, don't you? Criticism comes with a suggestion for improvement or correction, complainers never suggest a solution. One big complaint: parking (at least some people have chosen to go to other towns for Sunday Mass because of parking issues). The problem often occurs when one Mass is finishing and the other is beginning. Here's a solution; what do you think? A shift in the Sunday Mass schedule to look something like: 8AM, 10AM at Saints Peter & Paul and 5PM at St. John XXIII (this is just a suggestion but one I will take seriously).

As some of our youth programs are growing one issue that consistently comes up is space - we just do not seem to have enough space for all that we would like to be able to do. The fact is we do have the space, only we can not use it because it provides significant income for the parish. If enough people would be willing to increase their weekly giving by ten percent (if you give \$5 a week, that's only \$.50 more), and we increased our weekly income by just \$600, we could gain back that space and dedicate it to OUR young people and help them grow as disciples.

With the success of our Alpha Course, which will continue in the fall, I hope to see the beginning of 'small faith groups.' These are small groups (10-12) of parishioners who gather weekly to discuss faith topics. While there are many topics for discussion, using my weekly Sunday message with reflection questions is a great way to help those involved grow in their faith. Watch for upcoming announcements regarding the formation of "small faith groups."

Peace & Blessings

Fr. John

PARISH STAFF

- Rev. John A. Frink, M.Div., Pastor
- Mrs. Jane Habel, Director of Religious Education
- Mrs. Kristin Osenbach, Director of Parish Ministries
- Mrs. Mary Ann Mansell, Principal of St. Jerome Regional School
- Mrs. Donna Plasko, Administrative Assistant
- Mr. Frank Pentz, Business Manager

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Center	570-225-7410
Parish Fax	570-668-4406
Religious Education	570-668-1211
Parish Ministries	570-225-7412
St. Jerome Reg. School.....	570-668-2757

WEB SITE AND E-MAIL

- Parish Website— www.sj23tamaqua.org
- Pastor's e-mail— pastor@sj23tamaqua.org
- Parish e-mail— secretary@sj23tamaqua.org
- Religious Education e-mail— religioused@sj23tamaqua.org
- Parish Ministries e-mail— adultformation@sj23tamaqua.org
- St. Jerome Regional School—
website: www.sjrschool.com,
e-mail: altssj@ptd.net

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

- Safe Environment Coordinator:
Sister Meg Cole, SSJ, MS, LMFT
610-332-0442 x19
- Office of Victims Assistance:
Ms. Wendy Krisak, NCC, LPC
Direct Number: 1-800-791-9209

"Saint John XXIII Parish is a Catholic Community dedicated to loving God with all our minds, hearts and souls. We seek to announce the Good News and unite the Lost, Unchurched and Church Families, as Jesus commands us as His disciples."

News from the Parish Office

From the Desk of Donna Plasko, Administrative Assistant

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE / WEDDINGS

Arrangements should be made with our Parish Priest 1 year (and not less than 6 months) prior to the wedding. Wedding dates cannot be secured until the engaged couple meets with the Parish priest. To avoid any conflict with our weekend celebrations, no wedding will be celebrated after 1:00 p.m. on a Saturday and no weddings are scheduled on Sundays.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If a Parishioner is seriously ill, please call the Parish Center. Hospitalized Parishioners who are in serious condition should request the Priest assigned to the Hospital to be called for an anointing (**Remember** with the new privacy laws, hospital patient information is not given out as freely as it was previously). Parishioners are encouraged to request the Sacrament of the Sick prior to going into the hospital for any procedure.

BAPTISMS

Celebrated on Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Catholic parents and Godparents should be practicing their faith. A Certificate of Eligibility is required of all Godparents. Parents are required to attend a pre-baptismal meeting scheduled prior to the baby's birth. Please call the Office of Religious Education to schedule a meeting.

New Handicapped Parking Signs... Handicapped Parking is now available in front of St. John XXIII Church on West Broad Street on Saturdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and on Sundays from 8:00 to Noon. Please feel free to park in front of the Church, if you have one of the following: a Parking Placard, a Handicapped Registration Plate or a Veteran/Severely Disabled Veteran Registration Plate.

Cemetery... All of the Cemeteries (St. Bartholomew, St. Bertha, St. Jerome and SS. Peter & Paul) are cleaned in April and November. Please remove any item you would want to keep as soon as possible. This includes any personal flowers (artificial and real), decorations and flags. If those items are looking old and tired they may be removed.

If you need to an American Flag or the Military Bronze Medallion Flag Holder, please contact the Parish Center at (570) 225-7410.

Retrouvaille Marriage Program... Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse? Are you constantly fighting? Or, do you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? The Retrouvaille (a French word meaning rediscovery) program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples who are in a cold, unloving relationships or heading for divorce, have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending this program.

The Retrouvaille Program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6 to 12 post-weekend sessions over 3 months. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. The next program will be held the weekend of April 15 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more info or to register (all inquiries are kept strictly confidential), call the Retrouvaille community at 1-800-470-2230 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Mother's Day Carnations... In honor of Mother's Day, Carnations will be for sale in the back of both Churches after all Masses on May 7 and 8. In each Church, vases will be available for our Lady. The sale of Carnations will benefit Birthright of Frackville, an excellent pro-life organization that provides caring, non-judgmental support to girls, women and families who are distressed by an unplanned pregnancy. For more information, please contact Birthright of



Frackville at 10 North Lehigh Ave., Frackville, PA 17931 or (570) 874-2621.

<p>CHARLES X. BLOCK 251 West Broad Street Tamaqua 570-668-1112 Menswear, tuxedo rentals, dry cleaning Women's purses, scarves, jewelry</p>	<p><i>Country Tile</i> 1190 S. Center Street (Rt.309) Tamaqua, PA 18252 570-386-2500 ~ Fax: 570-386-1127 Mon-Fri: 8-5; Sat: 9-2</p>	
<p>Beidler Tree Service New Ringgold, PA 570-386-3092 Pruning ~ Topping ~ Removing 65 Ft. Bucket Truck Fully Insured ~ Free estimates</p>	<p>DAVE FREDERICK Building remodeling; roofing; siding; windows; doors; kitchens; baths. ~ Free estimates ~ PA license 019700 570-386-5203</p>	<p>The Dog Haus 209 W. Broad St., Tamaqua 570-952-1505 <i>"No hot dog order too big"</i> 100% Fresh Burgers Chili Dogs Fresh Cut Fries</p>
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News from the Office of Parish Ministries

Kristin Osenbach, Director of Parish Ministries,

“What is the Next Step?” I hope you have been enjoying Fr. Frink’s homily series’ as much as I have over the past few months. I pray Christmas was a time of miracles in your life. Whether it was something big or small, what you asked God for or something you did not think to ask God for, my prayer for you has been that God has moved and worked in your life in a special way. The Lenten Barefoot Journey was an opportunity for each of us to respond to God’s desire to move closer to us. The Barefoot Journey was about removing those obstacles and barriers in our lives that keep us from experiencing God’s amazing love and mercy. I hope that you have experienced God’s presence in your life and have grown closer to Him over the past few months. However, maybe you are still feeling lost or empty. Maybe you are wondering why you have not had any life changing experiences. Maybe you are still searching for God in the midst of the chaos of your daily responsibilities and obligations or the quiet silence of your current life situation.


Regardless of where you are on your own personal journey in life, I think in some ways many of us are asking, “What’s the next step for me?” My girls often like to sing the song, “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” However, in our house we change the final verse to say, “Twinkle, twinkle little star, God has placed you where you are!” I truly believe with all my heart that God places us on this earth, in this place and time, with unique gifts and talents for a special purpose. I think when we find that purpose and start living it, our lives change in amazing ways. There has never been and will never be someone exactly like you. So where do we go from here? What is the next step for you and me? How do we find purpose and meaning and joy in our lives and continue to grow in our faith?

Fr. Frink will be starting an Easter Message Series to help us map out the “next step.” I think **trusting** that God has an amazing plan for your life and for mine is a good place to start! It’s pretty hard to follow a path if we do not trust that it will take us to a place of fulfillment and peace in our lives. The world often teaches us that even those that love us the most sometimes break our trust. However, God is perfect love and He *is* trustworthy. I have learned the hard way that we do not need to be afraid to trust in Him with every part of who we are and in every aspect of our lives. God did not make us for isolation but rather desires to fill the emptiness in our lives with His love and the love of those around us. One way this is already happening at our Parish is in and through the *Alpha Course*.

Our Second *Alpha Course* is well underway and will conclude at the end of April. We have more than quadrupled the number of participants from our first *Course*. Close to 100 people meet each week for the various *Alpha Sessions*.

Continued on page 5

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MEMORIAL OFFERINGS

As you prepare your last Will and Testament, please consider including St. John XXIII as a beneficiary. Donations to the Parish Memorial Fund may be given at any time in memory of your deceased family members or friends.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

If you live within the Parish Boundaries, please register at the Parish Office. New Parish-ioners are always welcomed. If you are moving out of the area or change your address or phone number, please notify the Parish Center so we can maintain accurate records.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS

Every September, adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith and as well as adult Catholics who are in need of preparation for Penance, Eucharist and / or Confirmation are invited to join in this Parish program. Please contact the Parish Center.

FUNERAL / BURIALS

Please check the availability of the Church and Priest before finalizing any Mass day or time with your Funeral Director. Catholics are strongly encouraged to be buried in Catholic Cemeteries.

CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY

A Certificate will be issued only to those who: are registered in the Parish and have reached their 16th Birthday received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist are faithfully attending Mass in our Parish Community.

CARE OF THE SICK

Holy Communion is brought to the Parish Shut-Ins two Sundays each month as well as First Friday each month. The parish priest visits the home bound four times each year.

St. Jerome Regional School

Food for the Soul: “From the time that I could articulate my preference in elementary school, I vowed I would NEVER become Catholic. Why???. You know when you walk into a room and everyone glares at you like you don't belong, and are intruding and definitely NOT welcome?? That has pretty much been my only experience with the Catholic Church. I even remember being scolded the first time I was there, because I almost took communion as a *gasp* NON-CATHOLIC! Everything about it screamed cult; with their strange chants and weird ways. No matter how many times I went back, I never felt welcome, and just counted down the seconds until I could leave.

Now, I was born and raised Christian, and have always clung to my faith (even reading the bible in high school!). I have gone to numerous other churches, been met at the door, and embraced as if I was entering into their family, and they genuinely cared about me! That feeling is AMAZING, and why it's referred to as a church FAMILY!

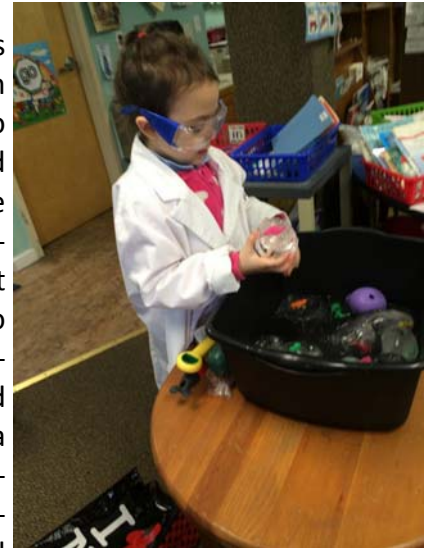
However, as fate would have it, I fell in love with a Catholic, got married in a Catholic Church (although I refused to vow to raise my kids Catholic, so I didn't have to say it), am sending my girls to a Catholic school, and am, myself, learning the Catholic religion to perhaps become Catholic some day.

Continued on page 6

SJRS Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. Transfer grants are available for any student enrolling in SJRS from a charter, public or home school. Call the school advancement director, Manda Smarr (570-225-7004) for more information or visit the school website (www.sjrschool.com). All religious denominations are welcome and financial aid, grants and scholarships are available.

Future Scientists at SJRS Kindergarten





“Scientist of the Week” During the months of February, March and April, students in SJRS Kindergarten have the opportunity to be a Scientist. Each child has a scheduled time to perform a simple experiment for the Kindergarten. The students practice the procedure at home so that they can carry out the experiment and explain it to the class. To promote safety and observe scientific procedure, the student wears a white lab coat and safety goggles. The children will receive a certificate and a picture of themselves performing the experiment. They are very excited and eager to participate in this fun and educational experience.



Science/Technology week at SJRS

SJRS's 10th annual Science/Technology week will be held in April. Every year we designate a week to celebrate Science/Technology in our school and community. These are important subjects in the field of education and at SJRS we have special events and speakers planned for our students. The students will also display special science and computer projects to show their

skills in these areas.

<p>Edwards Flowers 501 West Broad Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 570-668-0480</p> 	<p>Hometown Village Pharmacy 220 Claremont Ave., Suite 2 Tamaqua, PA 18252 “Let our Pharmacy family be your family Pharmacy”</p>	
<p>Michael S. Greek Attorney At Law 42 East Patterson Street Lansford, PA 18232 570-645-2200</p>	 <p>www.physical-therapy-at-st-luke's</p>	<p>219 Claremont Avenue Tamaqua, PA 18252 Phone: 570-668-1889 Fax: 570-668-6115</p>
 <p>E. FRANKLIN GRIFFITHS <i>Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Inc.</i> Telephone: 570-668-2550 www.griffithsfuneralhomes.com Onsite—secure crematory</p>		 <p>Grande Pizza 1209 Rt. 209 Tamaqua Plaza Tamaqua, 18252 570-668-1115 Sun & Mon—closed Tue to Sat-11:00AM to 9:00PM Pizza; salads; beverages Hot and cold sandwiches</p>

Continued from Page 3.

Alpha provides a great opportunity for sharing a meal and developing friendships within small groups. I'd like to share a couple of the participants' experiences with you.

"I really feel like I can express my thoughts, feelings and questions about Jesus and faith without being judged. I've been in a lot of studies and have joined other groups over the years at other Churches and have never felt so accepted and loved, despite all my questions and uncertainties about my faith." -anonymous

"The Alpha program has deepened my faith. I can reflect all the way back to the age of 5 now to realize how many prayers God has actually answered, how He spoke out in various ways over the years, what talent he gave me. It took for me to go through a lot though to actually listen... When I finally listenedit has all continued to fall into place. Sure, I've learned a lot over the past few years. I have a lot to be thankful for. I believe, trust, have faith which was gained by what I've gone through in life... Alpha has strengthened my faith. I'm glad I signed up." -anonymous

"I truly believe the friendships I have formed in my Alpha small group are the kind that will last a lifetime. I've met amazing people and it's wonderful to be able to have friends that share my faith and values." -anonymous

My goal as Director of Parish Ministries is to work with Fr. Frink and the Parish Staff to create opportunities for you to find meaning and purpose in your life. My goal is to create opportunities for you to enter into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus and to develop lasting relationships with your fellow parishioners. When this happens, we meet our Mission, because we cannot help but share Christ with others. Our faith spills over into the community and those we encounter in our daily lives, and we truly fulfill Jesus' commandment to make Disciples of all Nations. Over the summer, one of my personal "next steps" is to create more opportunities for small groups and provide Parishioners with the chance to share your gifts and talents with the Parish so that you can continue to grow in your faith. As we travel this journey called "life," my prayer is that you will encounter the Risen Lord in a powerful way during this Easter Season. He stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. How will you respond? May the God of peace and love hold you always in the palm of His hand! Easter Blessings!



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:00 AM—Mass at SS. Peter & Paul

- Confessions between Mass

9:30 AM—Mass at SS. Peter & Paul

11:00 AM—Mass at St. John XXIII

Monday

7:00 PM—Mass at St. John XXIII

Tuesday

8:00 AM—Mass at SS. Peter & Paul

Wednesday

9:00 AM—Mass at St. John XXIII, followed by Eucharistic Adoration

7:00 PM—Parish Holy Hour with Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by Benediction

Thursday

8:00 AM—Mass at SS. Peter & Paul

Friday

8:00 AM—Mass at SS. Peter & Paul

First Friday of the Month

9:00 AM (First Friday)—Mass at St. John XXIII preceded by Confessions

Saturday

3:30—4:15 PM—Confession at St. John XXIII

4:30 PM—Mass at St. John XXIII

Please consult the weekly special bulletin for changes in the Liturgical Schedule. The Liturgical Schedule is kept up to date on the parish website: www.sj23tamaqua.org

Anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) may approach Father at any time.



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News from the Office of Religious Education

Mrs. Jane Habel, Director of Religious Education

(From page 4)

You want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans!!!

It took me a long time to figure out what God had in store for me. He pushed me into the path of something I was so against, not to make me upset and angry, but to allow me the chance to CHANGE IT! He even gave me an AMAZING church family here at St. John XXIII who was excited and willing to listen to my suggestions and issues, and gently teach and guide me to understand something that seemed so foreign to me. I think that might be many people's biggest barrier to faith... not understanding it... feeling stupid... or not holy enough...

BUT, through all of this, I've learned all you need to do is ask. Ask the hard questions, seek the answers, and realize there is nothing in your past that won't be forgiven. I'm not going to lie. I came in swinging, trying to fight, but was met with such love and understanding I knew why God put me here!

So here I am, still feeling slightly out of place, but knowing this is exactly where I'm meant to be. It's time to go outside of your comfort zone... to change things you don't like about the world... to make it better for those around you and for yourself! *'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.'* Romans 12:2"

My First Grade teacher was a religious sister, Sr. Therese, was a Sister Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (I.H.M.). I loved her, and still love her to this day. Although she is now known as Sr. Amy. Sr. Therese taught my classmates and I about Jesus, that He loved us, and that we were created for a purpose. She had a newspaper clipping attached the wall just inside our classroom that had the image of a pouty little boy and the words **"I know I'm somebody 'cause God don't make no junk!"** It wasn't enough to know that God created us. God loves us and desires to have a intimate relationship with us.

How can you help your child to have a close relationship with God? **Tell them about God.** Begin before your child can speak. Show them pictures of Jesus around your home. Read them stories about how God created the world and everything in it, including your child. Children understand love. Tell them about how God loved us so much, that he sent Jesus to save us. He sent Jesus to us so that he could reveal himself to us. As your child grows, give them more information about those familiar stories by moving from an infant Bible to a Youth Bible. Show them your Bible, and allow them to see you read it, and then read to them from a Children's Bible. There is a type of prayer called Lectio Divina where you prayerfully read scripture and reflect on the passage. Here is a link to a website that better explains Lectio Divina and Gospel Contemplation <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-what-how-why-of-prayer/praying-with-scripture>

Bring your children to Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Even if their hair is uncombed, and they insist on wearing striped leggings with rubber rain boots. And if they are bursting with energy, it may just be the Holy Spirit filling them with the Joy of the Lord. You may feel compelled to explain to everyone that you really do own a hair brush, but all we notice is that you are present to worship with us. It is so good to have you with us, and our family isn't complete without you.

<p>Hope's Collision & Towing 1500 W. Broad St Tamaqua, PA 570-668-4113</p> 	<p>Knights of Columbus Council 2711 meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 200 East Miner St., Coaldale. <i>We serve savory noontime dinners every 3rd Sunday.</i> 570-645-3896</p> 	<p>WALTERS MONUMENT CO.</p>  <p>Cemetery Memorials Craig Walters – owner 570-645-3415 ~ Fax: 570-645-2158 waltersmonument.com</p>
<p>Tom's Auto-body & Marine S. Greenwood St. & Mtn. Ave. Tamaqua, PA 570-668-5066 Since 1964 Expert Auto-body repair, Rhino Lining truck bed coating, Propane, and Fishing Store. tomsautobodyrepair.com</p>	<p>Tamaqua Appliance Parts & Service, LLC 1130 E. Broad St., Tamaqua, PA 570-668-3456</p>	<p>May God Be With You Throughout this Week <i>Compliments of Shafer's Pharmacy</i></p>
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I KNOW I'M
SOMEBODY



'cause God don't
make no junk!!

Quietly explain to your child what is happening during the mass. I had a friend tell me that as she helped her daughter prepare for First Holy Communion she would quietly explain what was about to happen, and she received an unfriendly look from another parishioner sitting close by. I thank God for parents who point out things to their children during mass. It helps everyone in the family to actively participate in the mass. I learned to read early, but the rule was that First Grade was not allowed to use hymnals during our weekly school masses because we didn't know how to read. Sr. Therese noticed that I would try to sing the songs, but didn't know all of the words. She leaned down and held the hymnal open for me. Such a simple act, but I loved it. I didn't dare touch the book, but eagerly looked for each word. At that moment I felt like I belonged at the mass. I

was included.

Make the Sacraments important. Show your children pictures of their baptism. Tell them about their name, and why you chose their name. How did you select their godparents? Who are their godparents? Invite the godparents to have a strong relationship with your child on an ongoing basis. The godparents may be hesitant to intrude on your life, so invite them to baseball games, and spelling bees. Many children do not even know the names of their godparents. When you get in line to receive the Eucharist each week, bring your child forward to receive a blessing from Father Frink. Explain to them that when they are older that will also be able to receive Jesus. Allow them to hear you say "Amen!" And when they ask what it means, tell that you are saying "Yes" to Jesus. Then return to your pew and pray.

Plan Retreats and opportunities for your child's spiritual growth. Think about when your child learned to speak, or read, or ride a bicycle. Those things didn't just happen without action on your part. The purpose of our life is so that we and our children will get to heaven someday. If you invest time, energy and resources into dance, soccer, baseball, swimming, wrestling, football, and academics why not invest time into helping your child grow in their spiritual life? AT our Parish of Saint John XXIII we offer First Holy Communion Retreats, Confirmation Retreats, ALPHA Retreats, and ALPHA Youth Retreats. In our Diocese there are other retreat opportunities including the "Diocesan Youth Rally: Rise Up United 2016" <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/youth-ministry/hs-parish-youth-ministry/> to be held April 9, and "Growing In Grace the Integration of Sports and Spirituality" also to be held April 9 <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/cyo/>. Also, there are retreat opportunities for teens to experience their faith with other teens from across the country at a Steubenville Conference <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-and-young-adults/youth-ministry/hs-campus-ministry/>.

Pray every day. It is important that you pray every day and that your child sees you pray. In the beginning it may be difficult to set aside time, but start small and make a commitment. Set a reminder on your cell phone calendar.

Help your child to discover their gifts and talents. Our talents may be evident to everyone else around us, but not to us. Work to discover your talents and use your gifts and talents to help our parish, and encourage your child to strengthen their gifts and talents. You know that we all have them because "God don't make no junk!"

A Prayer for the New Evangelization...

The Parish of Saint John XXIII

266 West Broad Street

Tamaqua, Pennsylvania

The Parish of Saint John XXIII was established by the decree of the Most Reverend John O. Barres, DD, Bishop of Allentown as a merger of St. Jerome Parish and SS. Peter & Paul Parish on July 1, 2014.

The Church of St. John XXIII (formerly St. Jerome Church) is the mother church of the parish and location for the Sacraments of Initiation. SS. Peter & Paul Church will be retained for Sacred Worship including weddings and funerals.

Heavenly Father, Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me: If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel? If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed? If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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